11. Tasneema Zaidi

12. Tehseen Munnawar

Procedure for Selection of News-Reader on Casual Basis

The applications for empanelment of Casual News-readers in different languages are invited through announcements on Doordarshan and by making advertisement in leading newspapers. The qualifications prescribed for the Casual News- readers are given as under:—

Essential	(i) Degree from a recongnised University, (ii) Proficiency in the language concerned. (iii) Camera-friendly face with a suitable voice, (iv) Sound knowledge of current affairs, (v) Citizen of India, staying in Delhi.
Desirable	(i) Professional background in journalism or academic (ii) Experience in electronic media, (iii) Computer literacy, (iv) Ability to interview people for news. (v) Knowledge of an additional Indian language, (vi) Ability to write news stories and to report news from the spot.

The procedure adopted for empanelment of Causual News-readers of Delhi Doordarshan is as follows:—

(i) Screening of application by a Committee of Departmental professionals which shortlist candidates fulfilling the required qualifications.

(ii) Interview : Short-listed candidates are called for interview to assess their personality, knowledge of current affairs and voice quality.

(iii) Those who qualify in the interview are called for camera audition. They are recorded on camera, reading news for five minutes in the language concerned. The recordings are then examined by an Expert Committee comprising non-official and official members.

The Selection Committee for assessing the camera auditions of candidates consists of:

Three non-official from	various specialist fields (Member)	—	Expert
One official from the Headquarter (DG: Doordarshan)		—	Member Head of News, Doordarshan
		—	Chairman

The final selection for empanelment of casuals for News reading is made with the approval of Director General, Doordarshan.

Global Indian Entrepreneurs Conference

995. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister recently attended the first Global Indian Entrepreneurs Conference (GIEC) held in June 19% in Singapore;

(b) how many NRIs attended the conference (country-wise) and what was the response to accelerate the flow of NRI savings and capital into projects in India; and

(c) what are the details of discussions held and outcome of GIEC?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Finance Minister attended the Global Indian Entrepreneurs Conference (GIEC) organised by Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in June, 1996 in Singapore.

(b) and (c) The Conference was attended by about 600 delegates from countries all over the world including interalia, Singapore, Hongkong, Malaysia, South Korea, U.K. USA, UAE, Japan, Switzerland, Germany respresenting NRIs, Key Indian Industrialists, academics and foreign CEOS with experience of India, and Corporate Houses of Singapore. The conference generated tremendous enthusiasm among the participants about India, its future, and its potential for being an extremely attractive investment destination. The keenness of NRIs to involve themselves with India by interlinking among themselves and with the industry and Government in India was emphatically highlighted by participants, participants emphasised the need for continuity and to impart thrust to the process of NRI involvement in the economic development of India. The conference also provided an opportunity to Singaporean business to establish contacts with participants with a view to further business opportunities.

Financing of High Tech Activities by Commercial Banks

996. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial banks have been directed to finance high-tech activities like aquaculture, floriculture, bio-technology etc. in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) details regarding funds made available to the farmers for acquaculture and floriculture in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years by commercial banks, bank-wise, year-wise and districtwise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that although no general circular regarding financing high-tech activities in aquaculture such as tissue culture, floriculture and bio-technology has been issued to the banks, they have clarified to the banks that advances for such activities are to be classified as agriculture advances as part of priority sector advances.

However, as far as assistance from commercial banks for promotion of brackish-water aquaculture is concerned, RBI had issued a circular in April 1992 to the scheduled commercial banks. A copy of the circular is at Statement (See below).

(c) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, National bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that it had provided refinance for aquaculture and floriculture projects in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years as given below:

(Rs. lakhs)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-%
Aquaculture	—	4	134
Floriculture	222	531	217

The district-wise information of the above disbursement is, however, not available.

Statement

Subject:—*Assistance through commercial banks for promotion of brackishwater aquaculture.*

As you are aware brackishwater aquaculture is not only a capital and technology intensive activity, but is also considered to be highly profitable. We have been informed by Ministry of Com-cmrce/Finance that commercial banks are not coming forward to assist small far-